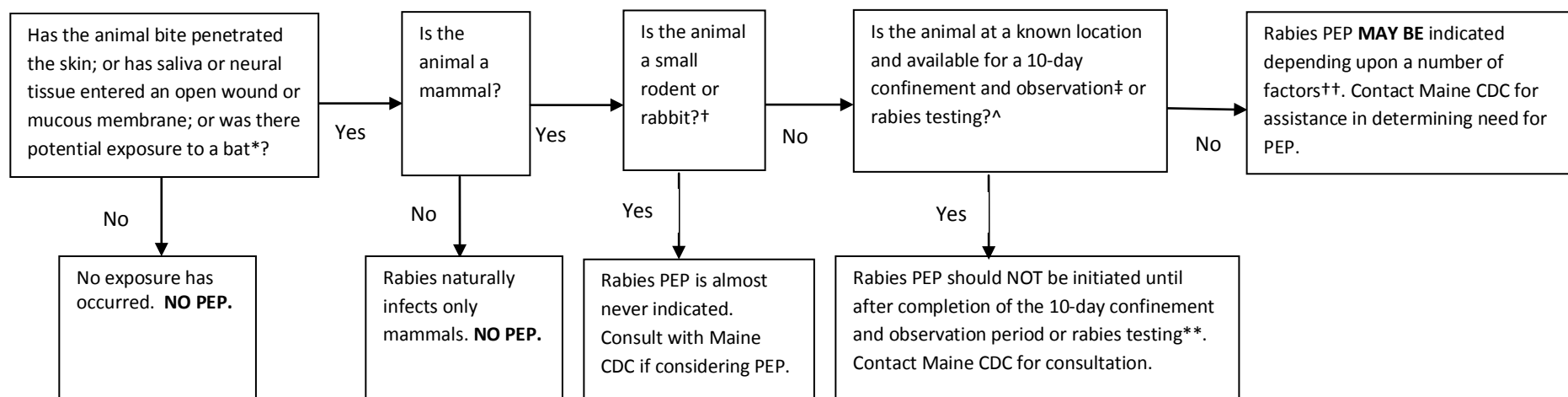


Evaluation of Animal Bites and Other Rabies Exposures for Appropriate Use of Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP)



*Bat exposures may be difficult to detect. Please contact Maine CDC for consultation on suspected bat exposures.

† Bites from squirrels, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, rats, mice, and other small rodents and hares almost never require rabies PEP. Consult with Maine CDC if considering PEP.

‡ 10-day confinement and observation periods apply only to dogs, cats and ferrets.

^ If the exposure is to a high risk animal (bat, raccoon, skunk, fox or coyote) and testing cannot be completed within 24-48 hours, PEP may be initiated while awaiting test results. If test results are negative for rabies, PEP may be discontinued.

** In exposures involving bites to the face, immediate rabies PEP may be considered pending results of 10-day observation or rabies testing.

†† Recommendations regarding rabies PEP are dependent upon associated risks including: 1) type of exposure, 2) extent or severity of exposure, 3) species of animal involved, 4) epidemiology of animal rabies in the area where the contact occurred, and 5) circumstances of the exposure incident. Contact Maine CDC for assistance in evaluating exposures or determining the need for postexposure management in situations that are not routine.

- Wound care should be given according to standard practices whether PEP is recommended or not.
- Rabies PEP: **For persons NOT previously immunized against rabies and NOT immune compromised**, human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) is given once (20 IU/kg) on day 0 according to labeled directions. Four 1.0 mL doses of rabies vaccine should be administered IM, one each day on days 0, 3, 7 and 14. **Immune compromised persons** should receive a 5th dose on day 28. **For persons previously immunized against rabies** (received a complete pre-exposure or postexposure series), HRIG should not be given and only two doses of vaccine should be administered IM, one on day 0 and another on day 3.
- Administration of rabies PEP must be reported to Maine CDC as per 22 MRSA §801-825.
- Please consult the Maine Rabies Management Guidelines for more information. It can be found on the web at: <http://www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies>.
- **Maine CDC 24-hour disease reporting and consultation line: 1-800-821-5821.**